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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW MOUSE

FROM NEW MEXICO.

Hesperomys (Vesperimus) Anthonyi sp. nov.

By DR. C. HART MERRIAM.

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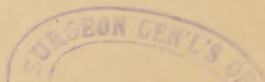
BY DR. C. HART MERRIAM.

(Read March 19, 1887).

During the spring and summer of 1886, Mr. A. W. Anthony, of Denver, Colorado, made his headquarters at Camp Apache, Grant county, New Mexico (about lat. $31^{\circ} 20'$). Camp Apache is in a hot desert region in the extreme southwestern corner of the Territory, and only about four miles from the Mexican boundary.

The following extract from one of Mr. Anthony's letters sufficiently describes the region. He writes: "You can form some idea of my location when I tell you that our nearest water is a very small spring nine miles across the valley, from which all our water is carried in wagons. The only trees within forty miles are a few very small stunted cedars and oaks. The only other vegetation consists of cañti and other plants characteristic of these hot dry deserts."

While in this region Mr. Anthony made a valuable collection of mammals, which he has very kindly presented to me. Among other things of interest it contains five specimens of a pretty little mouse, hitherto unknown in the United States, which I believe to be undescribed, and which, therefore, I take pleasure in dedicating to its discoverer. In coloration, proportions, and cranial characters this mouse differs so rad-



ically from all previously known species, that comparison with others is unnecessary. Unfortunately, nothing is known of its habits. It may be distinguished from its congeners by the following diagnosis:

HESPEROMYS (VESPERIMUS) ANTHONYI sp. nov.

Type No $\frac{2333}{2841}$, male ad., Merriam Collection.

Size, small; tail considerably longer than head and body; ears large and scant haired; whiskers long, reaching past shoulders. Soles naked, 6 tuberculate; palms 5 tuberculate; thumb armed with a blunt nail.

COLOR.—Upper parts from nose to tail, uniform clear ash-gray, more or less darkened by black-tipped hairs; sides bright buffy-fulvous; under parts white, the plumbeous basal portion of the hairs showing through on the chin and throat, which are thinly clothed with rather short hairs; belly strongly washed with salmon, which may be due to earth-staining. Pelage soft. The fur covering the breast, abdomen, and flanks is very much more dense than that of the rest of the body, from which it may be distinguished at a glance. In fact, on the sides it forms well-marked flank patches or tufts. Possibly this character may be seasonal; if not, it is very remarkable. In the young the belly is pure white, and the buffy-fulvous flank patches are not apparent.

The material at hand consists of five skins and skulls, collected in April and May. All are males. Nos. 2332 and 2335 are immature, though the latter is full grown. The skins were prepared with unusual care, and consequently afford measurements of approximate accuracy. Moreover, Mr. Anthony recorded the total length of each before skinning.

Table of Measurements of five Specimens of Hesperomys Anthonyi collected at Camp Apache, Grant County, New Mexico, by A. W. Anthony.

(Measurements in millimeters).

Skin No.	Skull No.	Sex and Age.	MEASURED IN THE FLESH.*	MEASURED FROM THE DRY SKIN.						Date.
			Total length.	Total length.	Head and body.	Tail, to end of Verte- brae.	Hairs.	Hind foot.	Height of Ear from crown.	
2149	2675	♂ ad	165	144	63	80	81.5	18.5	12.	Apr. 12, 1886.
2332	2840	♂ im.	162	145	62	82	83.5	18.5	11.	" 5, "
2333	2841	♂ ad.	168	145	63	81	82.5	19.5	12.	May 10, "
2334	2842	♂ ad.	165	150	66	83	85.	19.5	12.	" " "
2335	2843	♂ im.	162	139	64	74	75.	19.	10.	" " "

CRANIAL CHARACTERS.—The skull, compared with that of *H. leucopus*, is short, broad, and flat. The incisor foramina reach past the anterior plane of the first molar. The nasals are short and do not extend so far posteriorly as the premaxillaries.

Excluding skull No. 2840, which is not full grown, the close agreement in cranial measurements is remarkable.

Cranial Measurements.

	No. 2840	No. 2841	No. 2842	No. 2843
	♂ im.	♂ ad.	♂ ad.	♂
Basilar length (from one of the occipital condyles to posterior edge of alveola of incisor of same side).	18.9	20.	20.3	20.4
Basilar length of Hensel (from inferior lip of foramen magnum to posterior edge of alveola of incisor).	16.5	18.	18.	18.
Greatest zygomatic breadth.	12.4	12.8	12.7	12.1
Interorbital constriction.	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7
Greatest length of nasal bones.	7.4	7.8	8.5	8.3
Length of upper molar series.	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8
Incisor to molar.	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7
" " post-palatal notch.	8.8	9.5	9.5	9.5
Distance between alveolae of upper molar series anteriorly.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
" " " " " " " " posteriorly.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Foramen magnum to post-palatal notch.	7.4	8.	8.	8.2
Height of cranium from inferior lip of foramen magnum.	6.8	7.3	7.	7.
Fronto-palatal depth (taken at middle of molar series).	5.8	6.2	6.	5.8
Length of mandible.	12.6	12.9	12.9	13.2
Length of under molariform series.	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.

*The apparent discrepancy between the total length as recorded by Mr. Anthony and that taken from the dry skin is due to the necessary stretching of the fresh specimens for measurement.

